**(iii) $NO_X$ (Normal Value <60 microgram per cubic meter, Annual Average for Residential Area]**

| Sl. No. | Cities | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 (January to August) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Delhi | 43 | 36 | 43 |
| 2. | Kolkata | 53 | 58 | 63 |
| 3. | Mumbai | 29 | 40 | 34 |
| 4. | Chennai | 10 | 9 | 10 |

**Pollution in Ganga**

1041. SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR:
SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the water of holy Ganga has become poisonous due to pollution;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether 12 districts of Bihar and 20 districts of Uttar Pradesh including Varanasi, Ballia, Gorakhpur, Moradabad etc. are badly affected by the pollution in river Ganga; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to clean Ganga during the last two years till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) As informed by Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), there is no evidence of the river water of holy Ganga getting poisonous due to pollution.

(c) The water quality monitoring carried out by reputed institutions of the country indicates that, the river water quality conforms to the prescribed standards in terms of key indicators namely, DO and BOD at most of the locations except for marginal deviations at a few locations between Kannauj and Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh. The levels of Fecal Coliforms are reported to be exceeding the maximum permissible limit of 2500 MPN (Most Probable Number) per 100 millitre, at a number of monitoring stations along the river Ganga.

(d) To improve the water quality of Ganga River, Ganga Action Plan (GAP) Phase-I was launched by Government of India in 1985. Under this Phase, 260 pollution abatement schemes in the States of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal were completed and 869 million litres per day (mld) of sewage treatment capacity was created at an expenditure of Rs. 452 crore. The schemes taken up included interception and diversion of sewage, sewage treatment plants, low cost sanitation works, electric and/or improved wood crematoria, river front development

works, public participation and awareness programmes etc. Since, GAP Phase-I did not cover the pollution load of the river fully, GAP Phase-II was approved in stages from 1993 onwards, including action plans for the tributaries namely, Yamuna, Gomti, Damodar and Mahananda. GAP Phase II was merged in 1996 with the National River Conservation Plan (NRCP), which presently covers identified polluted stretches of 36 rivers in 165 towns spread over 20 States. During the last two years, 119 schemes have been completed with creation of sewage treatment capacity of 98.36 mld at a cost of Rs. 113.06 crores.

**Prevention and control of forest fires**

1042. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL:
SHRI DARA SINGH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a moderate Forest Survey of India (FSI) estimate says that timber worth Rs. 35 crore is lost in fires in 63 million hectares of Indian forest everyday, apart from unaccounted damage to biodiversity;

(b) whether a Satellite-linked Fire Alert System developed by NASA is turning out to be an effective tool in saving wild-life and bio-diversity from forest fires apart from saving time; and

(c) if so, how this system builds database of fire locations which can be used to identify fire sensitive zones scientifically as well as plan fire control strategy in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) Forest Survey of India (FSI) has not done any studies to assess damage in monetary terms to the forests due to fire.

(b) The Satellite-linked Fire Alert System is expected to control forest fire promptly but mechanism to analyses it's effectiveness in saving wildlife and biodiversity is not yet developed by Forest Survey of India.

(c) The geo — coordinates (latitude/longitude) of fire locations in forests (obtained through satellite) of various years shall form the data base. Forest Survey of India has already got this data of the last 4 years which can be used to identify fire sensitive zones which would help in formulating fire control strategy in India.

**Non-arrival of migratory birds in Goa**

1043. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether migratory birds reaching Goan lakes from eastern Europe and the Himalayas have failed to swoop over some of the lakes in Goa, this winter;

(b) if so, whether any reasons for the same have been identified;

(c) the names of the lakes in Goa where these birds have been swooping all these years; and